

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IT
SUBJ: U.S.-ITALY BILATERAL ENERGY COOPERATION

REF: A) ROME 11451, B) STAE 189634

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A MINUTE OF THE JUNE 15, 1978
MEETING BETWEEN AMMASSARI (DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ENERGY SOURCES,
MININD) AND O'LEARY (DEPUTY SECRETARY, DOE) DRAFTED BY THE EMBASSY
ON BASIS REF A: QTE. IN OPENING THE MEETING, AMMASSARI RAISED
THE FOLLOWING POINTS: URANIUM SUPPLY; TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TE-
CHNOLOGIES; FINANCING FOR THE ITALIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, BILATERAL
COOPERATION ON NON-NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

URANIUM SUPPLY

IN DISCUSSING URANIUM SUPPLY, AMMASSARI STATED THAT THE REAL
PROBLEM IN ITALY IS ASSURED NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLY TO FULFILL
ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS. NEVERTHELESS, ITALY MIGHT BE INTERESTED
IN DUSCUSSING WITH THE U.S. ARRANGEMENS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM
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SUPPLIS IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. AMMASSARI INDICATED THAT
ITALY WOULD LIKE ALSO TO HAVE SOME EXCHANGE ON TECHNOLOGIES FOR
URANIUM EXPLORATION, ESPECIALLY AS DEVELOPED BY THE NATURAL
URANIUM RESOURCE EVALUATION (NURE).

ON THE SUBJECT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLIES ON AN EMERGENCY
BASIS AND ON URANIUM EXPLORAION TECHNOLOGIES, O'LEARY INDICATED

THAT MORE DISCUSSION MIGHT PROVE FRUITFUL. O'LEARY ALSO INDICATED THAT THE UJMS. WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING ITALY TO DRAW IN AN EMERGENCY ON THE U.S. STOCKPILE OF ENRICHED URANIUM (BY MEANS OF SUITABLE COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.) TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES.

AMMASSARI RAISED THE ISSUE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN ITALY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN REPROCESSING AND WASTE CONDITIONING TECHNOLOGIES. O'LEARY INDICATED A GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGES ON REPROCESSING, THOUGH HOLDING OUT LITTLE HOPE OF CONCRETE RESULTS BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED U.S. ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD AND U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUARY FROM O'LEARY, AMMASSARI MADE IT CLEAR THAT ITALY WOULD NOT CONSIDER COOPERATING WITH THE U.S. ON BREEDER REACTOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS.

FINANCING

ON FINANCING, AMMASSARI MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EXAKIM BANK LEAD A CONSORTIUM OF PRIVATE BANKS IN FINANCING THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT ENEL HAS RECENTLY RAISED MONEY ON THE LONDON MARKET WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

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NON-NUCLEAR COOPERATION

IN A DISCUSSION OF NON-NUCLEAR COOPERATION, O'LEARY INDICATED HIS STRONG CONFIDENCE THAT THE U.S. COULD DO MORE THAN IN THE PAST AND TOLD AMMASSARI THAT THE DOE HAS SET ASIDE BETWEEN ONE AND TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN FISCAL YEAR 1979 FOR SOLAR COOPERATION WITH ITALY. AMMASSARI, IN REPLY, STATED THAT ITALY HAD AGREED TO JOIN THE IEA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE BILATERAL WORKING GROUP, WHICH IT EXPECTED WOULD PROVED CERTAIN BENEFITS TO ITALY. BASED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING O'LEARY'S VISIT, AMMASSARI NOTED THAT THERE NOW APPEARED TO BE IIMPROVED POSSIBILITIES FR INTENSIFIED MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY.

O'LEARY CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY SUGGESTING THERE SHOULD BE A JOINTLY-AGREED MINUTE OF THE MEETING. HE THEN SUMMARIZED BY NOTING THE FOLLOWING POINTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION: A) MORE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON URANIUM EXPLORATION AND IN PARTICULAR THE VISIT OF AN ITALIAN SPECIALIST GROUP TO THE U.S.; 2) AN EXANINATION ON A ONE-TIME BASIS OF WHETHER THERE ARE USEFUL AREAS FOR A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON REPROCESSING; 3) FURTHER ELADORATION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICAL SOLAR COOPERATION; 4) FURTHER

EXCHANGES ON COAL TECHNOLOGIES AND ON CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES.

QUNTE

2. THE GOI HAS AGREED TO THIS TEXT. UNLESS ADVISED TO THE
CONTRARY, EMBASSY WILL ASSUME WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCUR.

3. FURTHER DETAILS ON SOLAR AND OTHER COOPERATION, AS REQUESTED
REF B, FOLLOWS SOONEST.GARDNER

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